# Summer Observations of Deer
# 2005

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**Abstract**

The 2005 statewide fawn:doe ratio, as well as the long-term (1960-2004) mean was 0.86. The Northern Forest region fawn:doe ratio was 0.81, just above the long-term mean of 0.80 for this region. The Central Forest region fawn:doe ratio was 1.12, above the long-term mean of 0.94. The Farmlands region fawn:doe ratio was 0.88, below the long-term mean 0.96.

**Methods**

DNR and cooperating U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel recorded deer observations during July, August, and September of 2005. Deer observed during daylight hours were recorded including month and management unit. Deer were also identified as adult bucks, does without fawns, does with one, two, and three fawns, fawns without does, and unidentified. Fawns-seen-per-doe were calculated by unit group (Fig. 1). The summer-long total of fawns and does reported was used to calculate the fawn:doe ratio for each unit group. The fawn:doe ratio calculated is probably lower than the actual ratio because observations tend to be more numerous in July when observed fawn:doe ratios are lower, rather than in August and September when fawn:doe ratios are higher.

**Results**

Statewide, the 2005 fawn:doe ratio, as well as both the 10-year (1995-2004) and long-term (1960-2004) mean was 0.86 (Table 1). The Northern Forest (Unit Groups A-H) 2005 fawn:doe ratio of 0.81 was just above the 10-year and long-term mean of 0.80. The fawn:doe ratio of 1.12 in the Central Forest (Group L) was well above the 10-year and long-term mean of 0.85 and 0.94, respectively. The Farmlands (Unit Groups J, K, M, and N) fawn:doe ratio of 0.88 was below the 10-year and long-term mean of 0.96.

Two Farmland Unit Groups (J, and N) had fawn:doe ratios above the 2005 mean, while the Farmland Unit Groups K, and M were slightly below the mean (Table 1). Weak correlations between observed fawn:doe ratios and other measures of herd recruitment in these Unit Groups cause us to use fixed fawn:doe values for these Groups in our population models. These fixed values are based mainly on long-term yearling doe percents as observed during the fall harvest. Summer fawn:doe observations continue in the farmlands as Study 025:Evaluation of Deer Population Monitoring and Management System, by Robert Rolley and Keith McCaffery. Their study additionally explores measures for improving the deer survey and its interpretation.

**Table 1.** *Fawn:doe ratio by management unit groups, 1991-2005.*

| | Management Unit Groups | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | J | K | L | M | N | Statewide |
| 1991 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.89* | 0.7 | 1.24* | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.76* | 0.81 |
| 1992 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.19* | 1.1 | 0.77 |
| 1993 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.83* | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.93 |
| 1994 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.11* | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.96 |
| 1995 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 0.94 |
| 1996 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.69* | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.71 |
| 1997 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.61* | 0.86* | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.80 |
| 1998 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.89* | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.94 |
| 1999 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.92 |
| 2000 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.87 |
| 2001 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.84 |
| 2002 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 0.90 |
| 2003 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.80 |
| 2004 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.80 |
| 2005 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.86 |
| Long-term Average | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1960-2004 | 0.78 | 0.84 | 0.74 | 0.82 | 0.85 | 0.84 | 0.77 | 0.84 | 1.00 | 0.91 | 0.94 | 1.00 | 1.02 | 0.86 |
| 10-year Average | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1995-2004 | 0.76 | 0.84 | 0.75 | 0.82 | 0.78 | 0.92 | 0.73 | 0.76 | 0.98 | 0.94 | 0.85 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.86 |

*Ratios computed from samples of fewer than 100 adult does, (but more than 25).

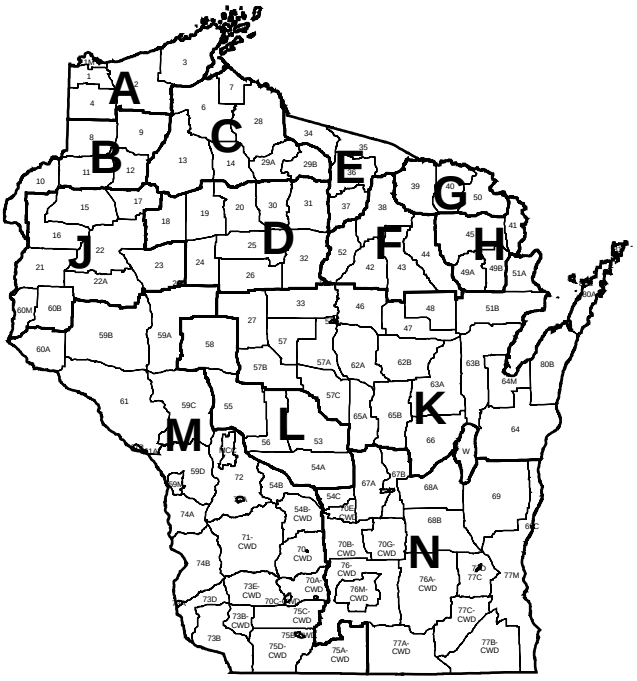


**Figure 1.** *Groups of deer management units used for summer deer observations.*